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## The Australian National Chinese Japanese Korean Project

### *Introduction*

Providing access to Asian-language materials has always been a problem for libraries. There are particular difficulties in acquiring Asian materials, in cataloguing them and providing access, and in incorporating them in library systems. There is however, an urgent and growing need for access to Asian materials. Part of the response of the Australian library community to the difficulties and to the increasing need has been the Australian National CJK (Chinese Japanese and Korean) Project. The CJK Project is a co-operative project involving seven Australian universities and the National Library of Australia; membership is expected to grow to include other Australian research libraries, some public libraries and some overseas libraries.

North American libraries may be interested in this project from several different points of view. Some of you may be interested as potential users of the National CJK database. Some may have an interest in the co-operative infrastructure that has brought all of the major CJK collecting libraries of Australia together in a national project. Some may have a more technical interest in the problems of automating a character set of over 50,000 characters, and a language where a space between characters may, or may not, represent a division between words. I will try to give some information from all these points of view in this paper.

### *Current status of the Project*

We are now in the final stages of negotiating the tender with the company that will supply the software. Implementation is expected to be in late 1994 or early 1995.

### *Services*

The CJK project will provide:

- a CJK script OPAC, where users can enter searches in CJK characters and see results containing CJK characters
- ability to input cataloguing data in CJK scripts
- an Australian national union catalogue of CJK material
- a source of copy cataloguing of CJK records.

### *The database*

The database will initially contain about half a million records, both in Romanised and script form. We are planning for the database to grow to 2 million records after 5 years. Sources will include LC, LC's JapanMARC service, OCLC, RLIN, ABN (the Australian Bibliographic Network), and eventually various Asian agencies.

#### *Access by non-Australian libraries*

Access will be available through the Internet. There will be charge for access. At the time of preparation of this summary, charges for access had not been set. It is likely, however, that the charge will be an up-front monthly fee, rather than a per-minute or per-command charge, and that there will be different levels of charges for users who just want to search the database and for users who want to order MARC records.

A Romanised view of the database will be possible. To enter and view CJK characters you will need to install one of three types of software on your PC or Xterminal: ETen, Join CJK, or MASS.

#### *Other issues*

The paper will also discuss some of the standards and technical issues involved in the National CJK Project.

#### *Further information*

Occasional announcements about the Project's progress appear on the listservers eastlib, cjklb-l and asialib. I am happy to answer questions at any time:

#### *About the Speaker*

*Linda began life as a cataloguer at the University of Sydney, then at a CSIRO library and then at the Australian National University. In 1983 she joined the National Library of Australia, and spent two years as a Voice on the ABN (Australian Bibliographic Network) Help Desk. She spent some years as the ABN Systems Librarian, during which time she wrote specifications for programmers, explaining to them about MARC, screen layouts, commands, uniform titles and the meaning of life, and then testing to see if they had understood her. Highlights of her career include specifying the ABN Supersearch retrieval system, commissioning cartoons for an ABN Interlibrary Loans System brochure, and most recently inputting Korean characters at a rate faster than the speed of meaning. She does not speak Chinese, Japanese or Korean. She also has raised two lovely daughters, who regard all of the above as quaintly irrelevant.*